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(Indianapolis, Ind.: Indiana Bureau of Legislative Information. 1917. Pp. 66.)

Prepared at the request of Governor Ralston of Indiana in order to assist the general assembly in preparing for the enactment of a blue sky law. Embodies a review of certain flagrant corporate abuses and a brief syllabus of the remedies suggested to meet them.

STRAUSS, F. *The modern underwriting syndicate*. (New York: The author, Care of J. & W. Seligman & Co. 1917. Pp. 29.)

WOOD, W. A. *Organization and management of corporations with forms*. New revised edition. (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill. 1917. \$4.)

*Business corporations under the laws of Delaware; shares without par value*. Fourth edition, revised to include 1917 legislative changes. (Wilmington, Del.: Corporation Trust Co. of America. 1917. Pp. 32.)

*Commission leaflets (nos. 47-53 inclusive) containing selected commission decisions, November, 1915-May, 1916*. (New York: American Telephone & Telegraph Co. 1917. Pp. lxx, 1568.)

*Public utilities reports annotated containing decisions of the public service commission and of state and federal courts*. 1917. A. (Rochester, N. Y.: Lawyers Coöp. Pub. Co. 1917. Pp. lxxii, 1263. \$5.)

*Special commission to consider the financial condition of the Boston Elevated Railway Company, proceedings July 21-Dec. 27, 1916*. House doc. no. 1875. (Boston: 1917. Pp. 354.)

## Labor and Labor Organizations

*Conditions of Labor in American Industries. A Summarization of the Results of Recent Investigations*. By W. JETT LAUCK and EDGAR SYDENSTRICKER. (New York: Funk and Wagnalls Company. 1917. Pp. xi, 403. \$1.75.)

The authors have done a valuable service in bringing together in conveniently accessible form a large amount of statistical material bearing on the economic status of the wage-earner. The book, we read in the introduction, "is a statement, rather than a description of some of the fundamental conditions of labor in modern industry in the United States, which, it is hoped, will prove useful to the student, be he in the classroom or in his vocation, employer or employee, business man, social worker or legislator."

The main emphasis throughout is laid on the income of the wage-earner and the question of its sufficiency from the standpoint of maintaining adequate standards of living. One chapter sets forth the existing statistical data on individual wages and earnings,

another is devoted to family incomes, and the final chapter in the book is a discussion of the adequacy of the wage-earner's income.

The two chapters on unemployment are of course related closely to the question of sufficiency of earnings. The same subject is in the foreground in the chapter on Living Conditions, while in the discussion of the wage earner's health we are continually reminded that health is "purchaseable" and that low wages makes it difficult to maintain health standards. This leaves only chapter 1, The Labor Force, and chapter 5, Working Conditions, where income is not the dominant note.

The statistical data presented—most of which was gathered for the United States Commission on Industrial Relations—are quite extensive and taken principally from the United States census, general and special studies made by the United States Bureau of Labor, the report of the United States Immigration Commission of 1908-1909, reports of various state bureaus, minimum wage commissions, and reports of private investigators. No attempt is made to estimate the effect of the rapid changes in rates of wages during 1915 and 1916, because of the absence of any sufficiently authoritative information on the subject and because the permanency of these changes is regarded as "problematical."

On the basis of inquiries made prior to 1914 the authors conclude that a third of the adult male workers of the country earned less than \$400 annually, and two thirds less than \$600, while a fourth of the women workers earned less than \$200 and two thirds less than \$400. It is estimated that the "average" wage-earner loses from 10 to 20 per cent of his possible working time during the year, including a loss of nine days on account of sickness.

There is very little new material in the book. Its purpose, on the contrary, was to make easily available existing material, and this the authors have done in a painstaking manner. Particularly valuable are the discussions of unemployment, its causes and effects; family income; and the health of the worker.

The chapter on Working Conditions is less satisfactory, partly because the space allotted to it is too small for adequate discussion of the subject and partly because of errors in statement. There is no discussion of the attitude of the courts toward laws regulating hours of labor, beyond a single sentence which was of doubtful accuracy when written, and which on account of the recent decisions on the Adamson law and the Oregon 10-hour case has been rendered wholly contrary to fact.

The statement in this chapter that "only one large operator in the bituminous region has succeeded in remaining non-union" disregards the fact that there are several bituminous regions and that in at least four of them—Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Alabama, and Colorado—there are non-union operators with extensive interests, including the H. C. Frick Coke Company, the Tennessee Coal, Iron and R. R. Company, and the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company—to name but few.

The official opposition of the American Federation of Labor to restrictions in hours of labor by law is inaccurately ascribed to the violent opposition of the majority to everything proposed by the socialist group. As a matter of fact, when the matter first came up, in the Philadelphia convention in 1914, it was the non-socialistic Pacific Coast delegation that made the strongest fight for the principle of eight hours by law.

It is unfortunate that so little attention is paid to unionism and collective bargaining in this book on conditions of labor. There is an enumeration of unions and a statement as to their membership but no discussion of their tactics or the part they play in making industrial history. There is a brief statement that organized labor is "without exception opposed to welfare work of every kind," an inference which is quite misleading, especially in view of the authors' rather comprehensive definition of welfare work.

Perhaps the chief weakness of the book is the tendency to dogmatize from insufficient data. One very impressive thing about the statistical exhibit is the fact—as all students of labor conditions know—that we are sadly lacking in authoritative statistics of earnings. What we have may justify us in coming to conclusions in the main quite similar to those of Messrs. Lauck and Sydenstricker. It is not safe, however, to speak with much assurance, especially when the main dependence, as in this book, is on the report of the Immigration Commission. The wages data in that report were gathered in the panic year of 1908 and for some of the industries covered are obviously unrepresentative. Furthermore, the number of individuals included, in some industries, was relatively so small that generalizations for the industry seem to lack justification.

One can agree with the authors, however, in their conclusions that the earnings of heads of families have been in many industries and for millions of wage-earners too low to admit of a standard of living that would afford the maintenance of health and satisfactory

conditions of living. The fact that the authors deplore this situation makes it the more surprising that they themselves fix upon \$800 as an income that will maintain for the average workingman's family "a standard of living that, with ordinary frugality, will allow provisions for separate and decent existence, health, and a modicum of reasonable comfort" (p. 368). The authors are themselves so much in doubt about the adequacy of this sum that on the very next page they make it read \$800 or \$900. At the same time they quote conclusions both of Chapin and of the Children's Bureau that indicate pretty clearly that \$800 is not enough to maintain a normal standard. Estimates of a minimum "living wage" will never be worth very much until the calculators give the benefit of the doubt to the human factors involved instead of to the payroll.

It is to be hoped that a second edition of the book may be required in order that an opportunity may be afforded the authors to correct the many errors of lesser consequence, which are plainly due to hasty proof reading.

JOHN A. FITCH.

#### NEW BOOKS

AMAR, J. *Organisation physiologique du travail.* (Paris: Dunod & Pinat. 1917. Pp. 374. 18 fr.)

ANDREWS, J. B. *Anthrax as an occupational disease.* Bulletin of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, whole no. 205; Industrial accidents and hygiene series, no. 10. (Washington: Superintendent of Documents. 1917. Pp. 155.)

ATKINSON, H. A. *Arbitration in industrial disputes.* (Philadelphia: Am. Baptist Pub. Soc. 1917. Pp. 16.)

CLOPPER, E. N. and HINES, L. W. *Child labor in the sugar-beet fields of Colorado.* (New York: National Child Labor Committee. 1917. Pp. 30.)

COMBAT, E. and F. J. *Le travail des femmes à domicile, 1914-1916.* (Paris: Berger-Levrault. 1917.)

FYFE, T. A. *Employers and workmen under the munitions of war acts, 1915-1916.* Second edition. (London: Hodge. 1916. Pp. 269. 10s. 6d.)

REELY, M. K. *Selected articles on minimum wage.* Debaters' handbook series. (White Plains, N. Y.: Wilson. 1917. Pp. 202. \$1.35.)

SELEKMAN, B. M. *Industrial disputes and the Canadian act. Facts about nine years' experience with compulsory investigation in*